



Staff Report

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 14, BELMONT MUNICIPAL CODE, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE III, TRUCK ROUTE AND WEIGHT LIMITATIONS

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Staff recommends that the City Council review the proposed changes to Belmont Municipal Code Chapter 14, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article III, Truck Routes and Weight Limitations, and give further policy direction to staff. The revised ordinance will then be brought to the City Council for introduction and adoption.

On January 25, 2005, the Council reviewed proposed revisions to this ordinance and requested additional information from staff. Specifically, the Council was interested in three issues: 1) the various weights of typical trucks, 2) a history of hauling permits issued, and 3) a proposal for administrative approval followed by notification and a Council call-up procedure, as an alternative to the current system of Council review of such permits.

Background

Belmont Municipal Code, Chapter 14, Article III, Truck Routes and Weight Limitations, contains the City's standards for hauling of materials to and from the City. These code sections were adopted in 1961 and for the most part have not been updated since that time. In addition, due to the current weight limits imposed on the City's truck routes, the City Council has been required, in recent months, to hear and act upon a number of requests for exemptions.

Attachment 1 represents staff's January 25, 2005 recommended ordinance to the City Council, reprinted with no new changes pending further Council direction at tonight's meeting. Language to be deleted is shown with strikeouts and revised/new language is shown in bold.

Discussion

Gross Weights of Trucks

On January 25, 2005, Council requested a more comprehensive listing of the types of trucks that

typically travel along our city streets. Table 1 outlines the category and class of trucks from the vehicle manufacturer truck classifications. Table 1 indicates that any vehicle listed from a Class 5 through 8 will exceed the proposed weight limits of our residential streets. A two-axle dump truck is the smallest of dump vehicles that can be used to haul material from a construction site. The main differences between a 5 yard dump truck and a 10 yard dump truck are the length and height of the vehicle, not the width. The table indicates that this vehicle will exceed the proposed weight limit. It should be noted that any UPS, FEDEX or bottled water truck also exceeds the proposed weight limit.

The proposed changes to the hauling ordinance only apply to material being brought to or removed from a project site. Typically this material is excavated soil and construction and/or landscaping debris. Any other delivery or pick up of material is exempted from local ordinance by the California Vehicle Code; moreover, vehicles owned by a public entity are also exempt.

History of Hauling Permits

Since July 1, 2004 the City has issued 9 hauling permits of which 7 permits were for single-family residential homes. Table 2 lists the address relating to each permit, the type and amount of material being hauled, and the type of vehicle in which the material was hauled. The table outlines the total number of truck trips that were required per site to haul the material and what the total number of trips would have been if another type of dump vehicle had been used. All of these vehicles exceed the proposed 8-ton weight limit. Table 2 also provides, for comparison purposes, the Summerhill Homes development that required 4500 yards of material hauled from the site.

For example, the project at 2625 Monte Cresta required 200 yards of soil to be removed. The City required the applicant for the hauling permit to use 10-wheeler dump trucks that have a capacity of 10 yards. The total number of truck trips that were required to haul the material away was 20. If the City required a 6-wheeler dump truck (a five yard dump truck) to be used, there would have been 40 truck trips. If the City would have allowed a tractor trailer dump truck (30 yards), there would have been 7 truck trips.

The cost for hauling material from a project site is borne by the property owner. In most cases this is a resident who is either building a new home or remodeling an existing home. The major portion of the cost for hauling material is the cost of labor. Therefore, the size of the vehicle will dictate the cost of removing the material for the resident. A five yard dump truck will cost a resident twice as much as a 10 yard dump truck to haul material from a site.

Administrative Approval with Council Notification and Call-Up

As currently written, Belmont Municipal Code Section 14-62 allows for the Council to consider an application from “any person desiring to operate any vehicle having a gross weight, including load, exceeding the maximum gross weight limits herein set forth along any restricted street” to

obtain a permit from the City Council if certain findings are made. As an alternative, Council could consider allowing staff to issue permits with notification and appeal rights to the City Council.

On January 11, 2005, Council considered similar language with respect to administrative actions of certain zoning code approvals. Reprinted below is the text of that approved language, modified as appropriate for this type of permit.

“Notice of approval by the Public Works Director of a hauling permit shall be mailed to the City Council, and to all property owners within 300 feet of the property which is the subject of the approval, stating the opportunity to file a written appeal or call the approval up for review within 10 days. Notice to the Council may be provided by email.”

Council should provide direction to staff regarding whether it prefers the current system of Council review of exemptions, or the proposed system of staff approval with a notification and a call-up/appeal mechanism.

Additional Issues

Staff recommends that El Camino Real and Bayshore be removed from the list as they are state highways. Harbor Boulevard from El Camino Real to Highway 101 is outside of the City limits, and should therefore be deleted. Alameda de las Pulgas is not a truck route in the City of San Carlos. This route should be deleted from our list to be consistent with San Carlos’ designation. Ralston Avenue is a major route to most parts of the City. The proposed increase in allowable gross weight to 13 tons will allow the use of small dump trucks on Ralston Avenue without a permit. Existing pavement is already designated for this loading.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact. There will be some nominal additional staff time required if a call-up/appeal procedure is adopted.

Public Contact

This matter was placed on the agenda and posted as required by the California Government Code.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council review these proposed changes and provide direction to staff to prepare a revised ordinance for introduction at the next City Council meeting. In particular, Council should decide if it wants to add staff approval plus a notification and call-up/appeal procedure.

Alternatives

City Council may wish to incorporate one or more of these alternatives into the hauling ordinance:

1. Require permit applicants to file for permits 10 days in advance of the actual hauling of material from a site. Staff will notify Council of each hauling permit as part of the weekly update, or by some other mechanism as directed by Council.
2. Require applicant to notice all properties within 300 feet of the proposed hauling permit of the proposed days the material will be hauled.
3. Restrict tractor-trailer dump trucks from all residential streets of 24 feet or less in width.
4. Restrict 10 wheeler dump trucks from all residential streets of 20 feet or less in width.
5. Restrict tractor-trailer dump trucks from all residential streets.
6. Revise the hauling permit fees as part of the annual Master Fee Schedule adoption.
7. Make no changes to the ordinance.

Attachments

1. Belmont Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article III proposed for January 25, 2005 meeting.
2. Table 1: Vehicle Manufacturer Truck Classification;
Table 2: Hauling Permits July 1, 2004 – January 28, 2005;
Table 3: Example weights of some pick up trucks, moving vans and SUV's.

Respectfully submitted,

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